



Michigan Forest Products Council
Business Advocacy for the Forest Products Industry

To: Members Senate Committee on Regulatory Reform
From: Michigan Forest Products Council
Re: HB 4561 (H-1)
Date: April 26, 2012

The Michigan Forest Products Council (MFPC) strongly supports H.B. 4561 with the H-1 Substitute as passed the house which would amend the Uniform Construction Code. The bill would revise the process for adoption of the state's energy code, including removing a requirement that the most current version of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) be adopted by the state on a three year cycle. **We ask that you vote "YES" on H.B. 4561 (H-1).**

The 2012 IECC mandates the use of foam board sheathing despite the existence of other products and systems capable of similar thermal performance. It was approved despite objections from many impacted parties. This will cause significant market loss of wood structural panels and other wood products leading to increased structural problems, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and an inability to sequester atmospheric carbon the way wood does. Wood products can achieve any performance level established, but cannot compete when the use of a particular product is mandated by the code.

Michigan's construction code, including energy code provisions, does not prevent improved performance or new and innovative materials. **The Michigan Code is a minimum code and designers and owners will continue to be free to exceed the minimum performance requirements if you vote "Yes" on H.B. 4561.** Public safety would not be harmed by adopting a flexible code cycle. Thirty-five states and the District of Columbia successfully utilize a flexible code cycle, including several states neighboring Michigan. The enactment of H.B. 4561 (H-1) would bring Michigan in line with the practices already adopted by much of the rest of the country while still maintaining the state's ability to allow for design flexibility and consideration of local conditions and factors.

MFPC works to promote, protect and sustain a vibrant forest products industry in Michigan. Michigan has 19.3 million acres of forest land supporting over 150,000 jobs and \$12.5 billion in annual economic activity.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Scott Robbins, Director SFI & Forest Policy, at 517-853-8880 or srobbins@michiganforest.com.